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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/758,386	01/15/2004	Memphis-Zhihong Yin	200312164-1	5428

22879 7590 09/21/2007  
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FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
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WRIGHT, INGRID D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/21/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/758,386

Applicant(s)

YIN ET AL.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 1/15/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**


1. In view of the Appeal Brief filed on 6/8/07, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. New grounds of rejections are set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

**Claims 1-5 & 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fung et al. Us 6217351.B1 (hereinafter: "Fung").**

Claim 1, Fung teaches a computer system (e.g. a notebook computer or a mobile phone, col. 8, lines 65-67 & col. 9, lines 1-9), comprising: a sidewall (e.g. implied but not shown by Fung,) having an aperture (e.g. aperture of body (120, fig. 8,) (note: additional aperture of computer) therethrough; and a multiple-connector apparatus (100) disposed to pass at least partially through the aperture (), movable to a retracted position (e.g. position, fig. 11) to conceal at least one of the connectors (170,172) inside the computer system, and movable to an extended position (e.g. position, fig. 10) so multiple in which at least one of the connectors (170,172) are accessible outside of the computer system for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices (col. 11, lines 58-60); and wherein, in the retracted position (fig. 11), only an outer face of the multiple-connector apparatus (100) is exposed through the aperture.

Claim 2, Fung teaches a push-push mechanism facilitating movement of the multiple-connector apparatus (100).

Claim 3, Fung teaches a computer system (e.g. a notebook computer or a mobile phone, col. 8, lines 65-67 & col. 9, lines 1-9) comprising: a housing (120) having a top side and a sidewall; and a retractable, extendible port connector apparatus (100) having a plurality of port connectors (170,172) arranged in a plane substantially parallel to the top side and adapted to receive plural mating connectors (col. 11, lines 58-60) in a direction substantially parallel to the sidewall when in an extended position (e.g. position, fig. 10), and is capable of having only an outer face exposed beyond the sidewall when in a retracted position (e.g. position, fig. 11).

Claim 4, Fung teaches wherein: the sidewall has an aperture (e.g. aperture of (120), fig. 8); and the port connector apparatus (100) includes an extension/retraction mechanism (e.g. illustrated in fig. 12) that enables the port connector apparatus (100) to be extended and retracted through the aperture.

Claim 5, Fung teaches a computer system (e.g. a notebook computer or a mobile phone, col. 8, lines 65-67 & col. 9, lines 1-9) comprising: a housing means (120) having an aperture (e.g. aperture of (120), fig. 8) (note: additional aperture of computer); and a means for changing (174,176) a total number of port

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connectors (170,172) exposed outside of the housing means (120); and wherein: the changing means (174,176) enables a plurality of the port connectors (170,172) to move back and forth through the aperture and moves to an extended position outwardly from the housing (120) for simultaneously connecting to plural peripheral devices (col. 11, lines 58-60); and the changing means (174,176) is mounted inside the housing (120) and not fully detachable from the housing means (120)(e.g. illustrated in fig. 10).

Claim 7, Fung teaches a computer system (e.g. a notebook computer or a mobile phone, col. 8, lines 65-67 & col. 9, line 1-9) comprising: a housing (120); and a connector tray (174,176) connected to the housing (120) and having a plurality of port connectors (170,172) that simultaneously connect plural peripheral devices (col. 11, lines 58-60) when the connector tray is in an extended position (e.g. position, fig 10); and wherein: more port connectors (170,172) are accessible when the connector tray (174,176) is extended at least partially outside the housing (120) than when the tray (174,176) is retracted (e.g. position, fig. 11) within the housing (120); and the connector tray (174,176) is mounted inside the housing (120) and not removable from the housing (120).

**Additional: Official Notice** is taken in regards to other prior art references, wherein connector device is not fully detachable from a housing, as Anderson US 6290517 B2 teaches a connector device (120) with multiple connectors (114') is not fully detachable from a housing (108) and Garside US 6186803 B1 teaches a connector (114) not fully detachable from a housing (116) of an electronic device (e.g. a mobile phone)

**3. Claims 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Anderson US 6290517 B1.**

Claim 14, Anderson teaches a computer system (100), comprising: a retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) that is mounted inside an aperture (118) of the computer system (100) and not detachable from the computer system (100) wherein the multiple-connector apparatus (116) extends through the

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aperture (118) to expose multiple connectors (114') for simultaneously connecting plural peripheral devices (129).

Claim 15, Anderson teaches further a housing (108); and wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) is integrated with the housing (108).

Claim 16, Anderson teaches wherein: the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) retracts entirely into the computer system (100).

Claim 17, Anderson teaches further a housing (108); and wherein the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) retracts within the housing (108) to a position at which a remote side of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus is flush with a wall of the housing (108).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 8,9 & 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giles US 5975927.**

Claim 8, Giles teaches a port connector mechanism (Abstract) for use in a computer system comprising: a connector tray (28) having a portion (e.g. body of tray (28)) pivotably connected via a pivot (38), fig. 6; a plurality of port connectors (30) disposed in a portion of the connector tray (28); and an extension/retraction mechanism (42) that locks the portion in a retracted position (e.g. fig. 2A) until released therefrom and enables the released portions to extend to an extended position (fig. 2C) at which the portion can pivot(38), but is silent as to an additional second portion. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize a second portion in

addition to the first portion (e.g. body of tray (28)), in order to allow a user to enhance the connection features of the port connector by increasing the connection range of the connector tray (28).

Claim 9, in view of Giles, the extension/retraction mechanism (42) comprises a push-push mechanism, is taught.

Regarding the method claims 11-13, the method steps are inherently necessitated by the device structure as taught by Giles. Giles disclosed a method for changing a number of accessible port connectors (30) of a computer system (implied by Giles) comprising: the computer system provided with a multiple-connector tray (28,) first and second portions in a retracted position relative to a housing (implied by Giles) of the computer system, the multiple-connector tray (28) having plural at least one connectors (30) in the second portion inaccessible in the retracted position; the multiple-connector tray (28) extended to an extended position relative to the housing to expose the second portion; and the second portion pivoted relative to the first portion (e.g. body of 28)) to render the plural connectors (30) accessible, wherein the multiple-connector tray (28) released from the retracted position, and wherein the multiple-connector tray (28) retracted back to the retracted position.

**5. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giles US 5975927 in view of Johnson et al. US 6217350 B1 (hereinafter: "Johnson").**

Claim 10, in regards to all the limitations of claim 8 above, Giles is silent as to an actuator button. Johnson teaches an actuator button (col. 8, lines 25-34 of Johnson) upon activation, causes an extension/retraction mechanism to release a connector tray from a retracted position. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the button of Johnson et al., in the invention of Giles, in order to allow a user to quickly and easily attach connectors to the electronic system of Giles.

**6. Claims 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson US 6290517 B1.**

Claim 18, in regards to all the limitations of claims 14 above, Anderson teaches a first portion (e.g. body of (116), fig. 4) capable of pivoting via (120), but is silent as to a second portion. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to a second portion on the pivot, in addition to the first portion as taught by Anderson, in order to allow a user to enhance the connection features of the port connector by increasing the connection range of the connector tray (116).

Claim 19, in view of Anderson, a second portion of the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) pivots to a vertical position relative to the housing (108), is taught.

Claim 20, in view of Anderson, the retractable multiple-connector apparatus (116) further comprises a plurality of connectors (114') accessible from a side away from the housing (108) of the computer system (100).

**7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fung et al. US 6217351 (hereinafter: "Fung") in view of Johnson et al. US 6217350 B1 (hereinafter: "Johnson").**

Claim 6, in regards to all the limitations of claim 5 above, Fung is silent as to clear view of the means for holding the port connectors (170,172) in a retracted position relative to the housing (102); and the means for releasing the port connectors (170,172) from the retracted position relative to the housing (102). Johnson teaches a means (100,90) for holding connectors in a retracted position and a means (e.g. a button, col. 5, lines 40-47 of Johnson) for releasing the connectors. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the means (100,90) of Johnson in the invention of Fung, in order to allow a user to quickly/easily connect jacks to the electronic device of Fung, and to conveniently store the connector tray (174,176), when not in use.

***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20, filed on 6/8/07, have been considered. New prior art to Fung et al. US 6217351 B1, Giles US 5975927, Anderson US 6290517 B1 & Johnson et al. US



6217350 B1 are now utilized to meet the limitations of the instant application, and arguments regarding the prior art of the previous Office Action, are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.


*Conclusion*

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Johnson et al. US 6273735 B1 shows the general state of the art regarding computer systems with movable connector configurations.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jayprakash Gandhi can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

IDW

  
9/17/07  
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